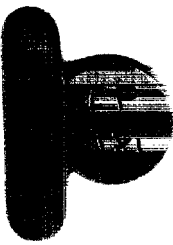


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Project: IP-181

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: 27 October 1950


To: D/FE

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: Sino-Soviet Friendship Association

Statement of Project

25X1A

Origin: Internal (Case K-3457) 

Problem: To furnish any available information on subject organization

Scope:

Graphics (if any):

Form: Memorandum

Draft due in D/Pub: 6 November 1950

Responsible Division: D/FE

Internal Coordination:

Departmental responsibilities:

Classification to be no higher than: CONFIDENTIAL

Recommended Dissemination: Requester only

*Restrict*

Approved For Release 1999/09/21 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000200100001-4

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Project: IP-181

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: 27 Oct 1950

To: D/FE

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: Sino-Soviet Friendship Association

Statement of Project

25X1A

Origin: Internal (Case K-3457) [REDACTED]

Problem: To furnish any available information on subject organization

Scope:

Graphics (if any): -

Form: Memorandum

Draft due in D/Pub: 6 November 1950

Dissemination deadline  
(if any):

Responsible Division: D/FE

Internal Coordination: -

Departmental responsibilities: -

Classification to be no higher than: CONFIDENTIAL

Recommended Dissemination: Requester only

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Note: The classification of this memorandum must be raised to conform to the classification of the draft it covers.

Date 11-9-50

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Transmission of Draft Report

ENCLOSURE: IP-181: SINO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP ASSOC.

(3 copies)

1. Enclosure is forwarded herewith for review and, if required, for formal coordination with the departmental intelligence organizations.

2. This draft report has been coordinated informally with the organizations checked below:

Within CIA:

D/G	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/RO	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/In	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/IA	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/Tr	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/WE	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/EE	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/ta	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/FE	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/TE	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/NE	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

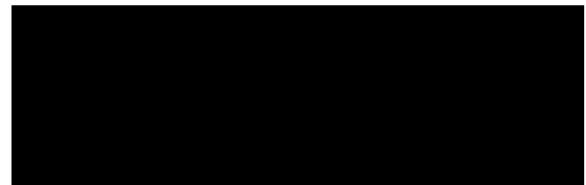
Outside CIA:

State (OIR)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Army (ID/CSUSA)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navy (ONI)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Maps and/or graphics to be included in this report and arrangements completed for their production by the Map Division or the Presentation Staff are as follows:

4. Comments:

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K-3457

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9 November 1950

IP - 181

**SUBJECT: Sino-Soviet Friendship Association**

Theory--Soviet "friendship" societies, which have been organized by the USSR and its sympathizers in most of the nations of the world, are a type of Soviet pressure group augmenting overt Communist organizations. Through such societies, prominent 'intelligentsia' of the nation in question are induced to echo the Communist Party line under a non-Communist label, thus enabling Soviet spokesmen to cite their actions as evidence of world-wide support of the Soviet cause. In non-Communist countries these societies mobilize opposition to the existing governments, while in Communist countries (among them China), the societies are employed by the regime as demonstrations of the undivided support of "the people" for a policy of alliance with the USSR.

History in Nationalist China--Sino-Soviet Friendship Associations were active in major cities of China during and after World War II, when the National Government felt it advisable to placate the USSR. In that period, the Associations attracted some thousands of pro-Communist and/or anti-Nationalist intellectuals--led by such figures as Mme. SUN Yat-sen and KUO Mo-jo, who later became associated with the Peiping regime--and performed a useful function for the USSR by disseminating propaganda favorable to the world Communist cause and unfavorable to the Chinese Government. These Associations continued to function in Nationalist China, in an increasingly circumscribed fashion, until the Nationalists were expelled from the China mainland.

Foundation in Communist China--The Preparatory Committee of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association was formed in Peiping in July 1949, sponsored by leading Chinese Communists such as LIU Shao-ch'i and CHOU En-lai, and by

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Mao. SUN Yat-sen and KUO Mo-jo. The society announced as its aims the establishment and development of "cultural, economic and other relations between the Soviet Union and China," the introduction of Soviet methods into Chinese life, and the consolidation of the "deep friendship of the Chinese and Soviet peoples in the struggle for lasting world peace." On 5 October 1949, four days after Soviet recognition of the Peiping regime, the S.S.F.A. was formally inaugurated in Peiping. Over 1000 persons, allegedly representing various parties and groups, minority nationalities, overseas Chinese, people's organizations, and Soviet communities in China, attended this opening meeting. The meeting elected LIU Shao-ch'i as Chairman of the S.S.F.A., and Mao, SUN, KUO Mo-jo and five other non-Party figures as Vice-Chairmen.

Development in Communist China--By November 1949 the S.S.F.A. claimed a membership throughout China of 700,000. In April 1950, membership was alleged to be over 2,000,000. At that time, the S.S.F.A.'s first semi-annual report noted that the Association had: (1) established 42 branches "in every part of China"; (2) sponsored mass meetings in more than 40 cities on the occasions of Soviet October Revolution Day and Stalin's 70th birthday; (3) invited seven Soviet scholars to lecture in China; (4) instigated mass rallies celebrating the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance; (5) begun to publish a monthly magazine (Sino-Soviet Friendship); (6) published works of two Soviet scientists; and (7) issued many publications, shown films, held art exhibits, arranged radio programs, sold books, and set up Russian-language night schools. On 5 October 1950, the first anniversary of the S.S.F.A.'s founding under Peiping's auspices, a Peiping broadcast claimed that the S.S.F.A. now has more than 3,000,000 members, with 37 urban centers and 4684 branches. This latest broadcast, in addition to repeating the S.S.F.A. functions noted above, specified that the Association is now publishing 34 magazines, has

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printed 70-odd pamphlets, and has established 23 Russian-language schools. Although some 800 guests were present at the anniversary ceremonies in Peiping--featuring speeches by KUO, Mrs. SUN, Soviet Ambassador Roshehin and lesser figures--CCP Chairman MAO Tse-tung was not listed as among those present.

Evaluation--No reports have been received by CRE in recent months, from other than official Communist sources, on the activities of the S.S.F.A. and the popular response to them. In fall 1949, reports from Communist China indicated that the S.S.F.A. was finding Sino-Soviet "friendship" hard to sell, as the Chinese tended to suspect that such "friendship" was merely another form of subservience to foreigners. Popular response, at that time, was for the most part apathetic and occasionally hostile; the Soviet cultural delegation had made a poor impression, the prodigal display of Lenin-Stalin portraits was unwelcome, there was resentment of the coercion employed by the S.S.F.A. to induce intellectuals to become members, and there was widespread suspicion of Soviet activities in Manchuria and of the influx of Soviets into China. Moreover, such "friendship" was handicapped by the lack of a common educational background and by a simple inability to communicate--difficulties which would, of course, require years to overcome. It was generally felt that enthusiasm for Sino-Soviet "friendship" would tend to be confined, in spite of the efforts of the S.S.F.A., to the narrow segment of Chinese society which had prospects of benefitting from it.

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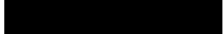
Sino-Soviet Friendship ~~from~~ Association

IBM run has been made on it but practically  
nothing turned up

Does D/FE have any material on it that  
could be loaned to OPC?

Or would they prefer to prepare a statement  
on it for them?

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 says "Yes". D/Fe will prepare  
written statement - a couple of paragraphs - be  
ready in a week.